
David Keith Sanders



Assistant Commander for Acquisition Processes and Execution Naval Air Systems Command

Mr. Sanders leads the Acquisition/Program Management Competency and is responsible for executive management of seven program offices executing more than 90 ACAT II-IV programs and Abbreviated Acquisition Programs assigned to Commander NAVAIR.

Mr. Sanders was appointed to the Senior Executive Service in February, 2003 and has thirty-nine years of civilian service with the Navy.

From October, 2007 through January, 2010, Mr. Sanders was detailed to the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics where he served as the Deputy Director for Air Warfare. He was the senior official responsible for management oversight of the acquisition programs for tactical fixed-wing aircraft, including their precision weapons and electronic warfare systems. Included were thirty of the Department's largest Major Defense Acquisition Programs such as Joint Strike Fighter, Next Generation Bomber, F-22, B-2, EA-18G, C-130, JSTARS, Special Forces Gunship, Tomahawk, AMRAAM, LAIRCM and ATIRCM.

From February, 2003 to September, 2007, Mr. Sanders served in his permanent Navy position as Deputy Program Executive Officer for Strike Weapons. As deputy, he supported the Program Executive Officer in managing the acquisition and life cycle support of major strike weapons programs including Tomahawk Cruise Missile with its Weapons Control and Mission Planning Systems, Joint Standoff Weapon, Advanced Anti-Radiation Guided Missile, High speed Anti-Radiation Missile, Standoff Land Attack Missile-Extended Response and Harpoon Missile System.

In February, 1996, Mr. Sanders was selected as the Deputy Program Manager for Conventional Strike Weapons where he was responsible for development, procurement and life cycle management of precision guided weapons, cartridge actuated devices and air-launched munitions like Joint Standoff Weapon, Joint Direct Attack Munition, Joint Air to Surface Standoff Missile, emergency ejection systems for aircraft and Laser Guided Bombs.

In February, 1989, Mr. Sanders was recruited into the Conventional Strike Weapons Program Office to establish a Major Defense Acquisition Program developing a new family of bombs. After Desert Storm, he helped combine Navy's bomb improvement program with a similar Air Force effort and led the Navy through the initiation of the Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) program. After assuming the duties of Deputy for Special Programs, he led government-industry teams that streamlined Navy acquisition programs for consistency with commercial aerospace industry practices.

In October, 1983, he moved to Naval Air Systems Command's Air Armament Division as the Senior Systems Engineer responsible for technical management of all 100 air-to-surface weapons and 800 emergency escape devices used on Naval aircraft. For one of his efforts during that period, developing countermeasures equipment and survivability tactics for F/A-18 Aircraft, he was honored with the Special Commendation of the Canadian Forces award.

Mr. Sanders began his career with the Navy in 1971 after a brief tour with Pratt and Whitney Aircraft in Florida. From 1971 to 1983, he held several positions at the Naval Weapons Support Center, Crane, Indiana, with duties ranging from aerospace engineering to the management of a branch of project managers developing countermeasures systems for aircraft and submarines.

Mr. Sanders holds a Bachelor of Science degree in aeronautical engineering from Purdue University where he graduated 'summa cum laude' in 1970, and a Master of Business Administration degree from George Mason University. He is a recipient of the Secretary of Defense Exceptional Civilian Service Award in 2009 and 2010, the Navy Superior Civilian Service Award in 2003 and Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award in 1999. He and his teams have received the Defense Department's William J. Perry Award in 2006, the National Daedalian Weapons System Award in 1999 and 2004, and the Department of Defense's David Packard Award in 2001 and 2005.